Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of January 5, 2004 to January 9, 2004

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	November 104.4	-0.4%	-4.0%	Manufacturers' prices fell 0.4% in November, and were down 4.0% on an annual basis. As in recent months, the higher Canadian dollar was largely responsible for the weakness in prices. Without the dollar's influence, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) would have risen 0.1% for the month and 1.0% on a year-over-year basis. Large annual price declines for motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-11.9%), electrical and communications products (-.8%) and pulp and paper products (-6.1%) were the major contributors to the year-over-year decline in the IPPI.
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	November 110.3	1.5%	-3.2%	Raw material prices increased by 1.5% in November. Mineral fuels prices (+1.6%) were responsible for about half of the monthly increase in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI), with increases in non-ferrous metals (+3.2%) and wood products (+2.3%) also contributing to the increase. On an annual basis, raw materials prices were down 3.2% from November 2002. Price declines for vegetable products (-17.5%), animals and animal products (-6.9%) and wood products (-6.0%) were the major contributors to this annual drop in the RMPI.
Rigs Drilling	December 401	17.3%	23.4%	In December, the number of active rigs drilling in Alberta rose 17.3%, to 401. The active rig count was up 23.4% from the same period last year, and 30.0% above the average level for November over the preceding decade. For all of 2003, drilling activity was up 35.9% from its average level in 2002.